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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov.'
Date: 11/20/01 1:49pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I find it appalling that we as a country whose fundamental beliefs in its government are being tested right now would be willing to let a company like Microsoft bully, buy and lie its way out of being penalized for it's legally acknowledged violations of the anti-trust laws.

Would such allowances have been made for any other company? Would we allow only one manufacturer of automobiles or aircraft have a 90% share of the market? Especially when that company had illegally stolen that share of the market?

What kind of moral lesson is going to be learned from this by other companies and the people who manage them? That as long as you can kill off your competition before being convicted of a crime, and are rich enough, that no "real" crime has been committed? To hide behind statements like: "it is for our customers benefit" or that "any break-up at this time in our country's struggles would be inappropriate" are despicable.

I firmly believe that Microsoft has destroyed the development and implementation of many real advances in this industry. I work with PC and Macintosh platforms and use a variety of software for both. The amount of truly new and creative applications has been dramatically reduced because of Microsoft's stifling, anti-competitive practices.

The proposed settlement with Microsoft has so many ambiguous and ill-defined terms that it is worthless. The history of this company speaks for itself - it will drag out as long as possible any potential future litigation to the point where that judgment is meaningless. The fact that Microsoft has so much control over the oversight of its "punishment" is verging on the unbelievable.

To have my government lose its strength of will and vision of fair play is truly disappointing.

Do not settle with Microsoft.

We will all lose.

Sincerely,
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